What may be most difficult for most Americans, enthralled as they were at the printed and televised transcripts Nixon let out, is that the actuality is they really disclosed nothing that was both of consequence and not otherwise known.

What happened is that people were aghast at first the fact that Nixon would let this kind of stuff out at all and then the fact that their chief executive had this kind of mind, used these kinds of words.

The shock value was high. The shock was great.

It should have been.

But not for what it brought to light.

In evidentiary value, it added nothing. These were except the chief executive's own words and those of his closest associates plus the unessential, his and their opinions of others, including their close associates and presumed friends.

Fact of consequence that was not otherwise available, has there ever been a real assembling of what was already known, just did not really exist.

In truth, I had already gathered, from public sources and otherwise and largely by putting the available together in a way that could make sense of it, what may well be more significant, in or out of court, that the actual content of these transcripts.